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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

(Currently Amended) An authentication method comprising: 1. generating an initialization vector at a first electronic device;

determining at the first electronic device whether the initialization vector falls within a first group of initialization vectors by determining whether a selected series of bits of the initialization vector has been set, the first group including a plurality of initialization vectors solely used in connection with an authentication sequence; and

encrypting information using in part the initialization vector for return to a second electronic device if the initialization vector falls within the first group.

- (Original) The authentication method of claim 1, wherein the first electronic 2. device is a wireless unit.
- (Original) The authentication method of claim 1, wherein the second electronic 3. device is an access point.
- (Original) The authentication method of claim 1, wherein prior to generating the initialization vector, the method comprises receiving the information from the second electronic device by the first electronic device.
- (Original) The authentication method of claim 4, wherein the information is a 5. challenge text.
- (Original) The authentication method of claim 5, wherein the challenge text is a 6. first sequence of bits and the initialization vector is a second sequence of bits produced by a number generator.

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- (Original) The authentication method of claim 4, wherein the number generator is a pseudo-random number generator.
- 8. (Currently Amended) An The authentication method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating an initialization vector at a first electronic device;

determining at the first electronic device whether the initialization vector falls within a first group of initialization vectors, the first group including a plurality of initialization vectors solely used in connection with an authentication sequence;

encrypting information using in part the initialization vector for delivery to a second electronic device if the initialization vector falls within the first group; and

regenerating an second initialization vector if the initialization vector fails to fall within the first group.

- 9. (Cancelled).
- 10. (Currently Amended) The authentication method of claim 19, wherein the selected series of bits is continuous.
- 11. (Original) The authentication method of claim 5, wherein prior to receiving the challenge text, the method further comprises negotiating a shared secret key between the first electronic device and the second electronic device.
- 12. (Original) The authentication method of claim 11, wherein the encrypting of the information includes

combining the initialization vector with the shared secret key; and repeatedly performing bitwise Exclusive-OR (XOR) operations on the challenge text using a combination of the initialization vector with the shared secret key.

13. (Original) The authentication method of claim 5 further comprising:

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transmitting both the encrypted challenge text and the initialization vector to the second electronic device;

decrypting the encrypted challenge text using both the initialization vector and a prestored copy of the shared secret key to recover a challenge text; and comparing the recovered challenge text with the challenge text.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating a wireless unit in communications with an access point, comprising:

transmitting a challenge text from the access point to the wireless unit;

receiving an encrypted challenge text and an initialization vector from the wireless unit, the initialization vector falling within a first group of initialization vectors, the first group including a plurality of initialization vectors solely used in connection with an authentication sequence, the plurality of initialization vectors of the first group forming a discontinuous series of bits; and

decrypting the encrypted challenge text using both the initialization vector and a prestored copy of a shared secret key to recover a challenge text.

- (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the challenge text is a first sequence 15. of bits.
- (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the initialization vector is a second 16. sequence of bits produced by a number generator.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the number generator is a pseudorandom number generator.
- (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein prior to transmitting the challenge 18. text, the method further comprises negotiating the shared secret key between the access point and the wireless unit.

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(Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the decrypting of the encrypted 19. challenge text includes

combining the initialization vector with the shared secret key; and using a combination of the initialization vector and the shared secret key as a key material loaded to decrypt the encrypted challenge text.

- 20-23. (Cancelled)
- 24. (Cancelled).
- 25. (Cancelled).
- 26. (Cancelled).
- 27. (Currently Amended) An electronic device comprising: means for generating an initialization vector;

means for determining whether the initialization vector falls within a first group of initialization vectors by determining whether a selected series of bits of the initialization vector has been set, the first group including a plurality of initialization vectors solcly used in connection with an authentication sequence; and

means for encrypting information using the initialization vector for return to a source for the information using in part the initialization vector if the initialization vector falls within the first group.

- 28. (Cancelled).
- 29. (Previously Presented) The authentication method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether the initialization vector falls within the first group includes determining whether the initialization vector forms numeric values within a range.

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- 30. (Currently Amended) The authentication method of claim 19, wherein the selected series of bits is discontinuous.
- 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the plurality of initialization vectors of the first group form numeric values within a range.
- 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, the plurality of initialization vectors of the first group forms a continuous series of bits.
 - 33. (Cancelled).
 - 34. (Currently Amended) An authentication method comprising:

determining whether an initialization vector falls within a first group of initialization vectors by determining whether a selected series of bits of the initialization vector has been set, the first group including a plurality of initialization vectors solely used for authentication of a first electronic device; and

encrypting information using in part the initialization vector for return to the first electronic device if the initialization vector falls within the first group.

- 35. (Previously Presented) The authentication method of claim 34, whercin the first electronic device is an access point.
 - 36. (Cancelled).
- 37. (Currently Amended) The authentication method of claim 3634, wherein the selected series of bits is continuous.
- 38. (Previously Presented) The authentication method of claim 34 being conducted within a second electronic device and, wherein the encrypting of the information includes

combining the initialization vector with a shared secret key used by the first electronic device and the second electronic device; and

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repeatedly performing bitwise Exclusive-OR (XOR) operations on the challenge text using a combination of the initialization vector with the shared secret key.